

TO

THE TIVERTON RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,

I beg to lay before you my Report on the health of the Tiverton Rural District during the year 1919.

According to the Census of 1911 the population of this District amounted to 15,340. The Local Government Board estimate the population for 1919, at 14,833 and as the acreage of the District is 85,368, this means that there are about $5\frac{3}{4}$ acres to every man, woman and child of the inhabitants.

The general character of the surface of the country may be described as very hilly, and much intersected by deep valleys, through which flow the tributary streams which feed the three rivers of the District viz the Exe, the Culm and the Lowman, the last two of these rivers are also tributaries of the Exe.

Dairy farming and General Agriculture are the principal occupations of the inhabitants but quite a large proportion of the people is employed in the various mills and Factories, situated on the banks of the river Culm, where the woollen and paper making industries are carried on.

VITAL STATISTICS

During the year 1919 the total number of deaths registered was (Civilians only) 196 of which deaths, 109 were males and 87 females. In the previous year the total number of deaths was 184.

The Death rate for this year works out at 14.374 on the Local Government Board figures for death rate calculations viz: 13,635.

The death rate for the preceding year was 13.14 on a population (L.G.B.) of 13,238.

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The total number of Births was 215 against 196 in 1918.
Of children born 103 were boys and 112 girls.

The population according to the Local Government figures for calculating the birth-rate was 14,204 which gives a birth rate for the District of 15,136 a marked improvement on last year when the birth-rate was only 13.21 on a population (L.G.B.) figures of 14,833.

Ten deaths of Infants under one year old took place, giving an Infantile death rate of 46,51 In the year 1918 the Infant mortality was 91.83.

The principal causes of death at all ages were as follows : Influenza 12. Pulmonary Tuberculosis 14, Cancer 15, Heart 31, Bronchitis 13, Pneumonia 7, and Brights 9.

Nearly one half of the total number of deaths that took place in the District were of persons of 60 years of age and upwards. Divided into ten-year periods they were as follows :

Between 60 and 70	-	27
" 70 "	80	- 40
" 80 "	90	- 16
" 90 "	100	- 8
		91

Birth and Death-rates for the last Five years.

	1915	1916	1917	1918	1919
Birth rate	17.94	16.37	12.12.	13.21	15.13
Death rate	12.07	14.06	15.33	13.14.	14.37
Infant Mortality	77.51	40.48	79.76	91.93	46.51

POOR LAW RELIEF

The amount of Poor Law Relief expended in the Tiverton Rural District during the year ending 30th September 1919 was £1,869.18.11½.

HOSPITALS.

The Hospital needs of the District are served principally by the Tiverton Hospital, Tiverton, the Devon and Exeter Hospital Exeter; and to a small extent by the Taunton Hospital.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE DISTRICT WATER SUPPLY.

The villages of Bradninch and Silverton obtain their water supply from local Reservoirs, which, as a rule, give a sufficient quantity of water for all the requirements of the inhabitants of these villages. Steps have been taken at Bradninch to increase the supply and thereby prevent any future shortage of water.

The village of Morebath has also a public water supply laid on.

The rest of the District depends on wells and springs to furnish the necessary supply of water.

During the past year 8 samples of water have come under suspicion two of which on being tested were found to be impure the trouble in each of these cases has been remedied.

Four old wells have been thoroughly cleaned out and two new wells have been sunk.

The general quality of the water through out the District can be described as being "good"

None of the water in the District is liable to be contaminated by Plumbo-solvent Action.

SEWERAGE.

The town of Cullompton and the villages of Bradninch, Silverton, Uffculme and Thorverton, have installed sewerage systems, the sewage being disposed of by means of settling-tanks and broad-irrigation.

A new sewer has been laid in Fore Street Uffculme, and in the rest of the district 8 new drains have been laid and 8 old drains have been repaired.

RIVERS AND STREAMS.

There has been some complaint of a slight pollution of the River Culme at Uffculme and Cullompton. This nuisance is now being remedied.

CLOSET ACCOMMODATION.

In the country Districts either cesspits on the pail system are in general use, the contents being buried in the gardens.

Bradninch has flushing cisterns for its closets. In other villages handflushing is the usual custom.

The Privy and Closet accommodation cannot be considered as fully adequate for the requirements of the community as it at present exists,.

Difficulties through shortage of labour and materials have rendered improvements towards remedying this insufficiency of closet arrangements almost impossible during the last five years but now it appears as if some advance may be effected in this very necessary branch of Sanitary work.

SCAVENGING

In Cullompton the Town Scavenger removes house refuse from the principal streets daily and from the rest of the town bi-weekly.

In Bradninch, Silverton and Uffculme the refuse is removed once a week.

In other parts of the District the house holders have to attend to the disposal of the refuse from their own premises.

SANITARY INSPECTION.

The usual course of visiting and inspecting the sanitary conditions of the District has been carried out in conjunction with the Sanitary Inspector.

The number and nature of these inspections, with results and action taken are embodied in the Sanitary Officers report attached hereto.

There are no By-laws for control of Premises or occupations within the District.

CLOSET ACCOMMODATION.

In the country Districts either cesspits on the soil system are in general use, the effluents being poured in the garden.

Bradinch has flushing cisterns for its closets, in other villages hand-flushing is the usual custom. The Privy and Closet accommodation cannot be considered as fully adequate for the requirements of the community as at present exists.

Difficulties through shortage of labour and materials have rendered improvements towards remedying this sanitary defect almost impossible during the last five years but now it appears as if some advance may be effected in this very necessary branch of Sanitary work.

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All the Schools of the District have been inspected and none of them have been found to be in an insanitary condition

The following Schools have been closed during the periods given for the stated reasons :

Stoodleigh	January 27th	February 17th	Measles
Calverleigh	January 20th	February 19th	"
Uplowman	February 5th.	March 3rd.	"
Blackborough	March 31st.	April 12th.	Influenza
Huntsham	"	till after Easter	Measles
Crwys Morchard	April 14th	May 5th	"
Washfield	July 12th	After summer term	German Measles
Hockworthy	December 12th	After Christmas	Measles

FOOD.

The milk produced in the District is more than sufficient for the requirements of the inhabitants and a considerable export trade has been established.

There have not been any complaints as to the distribution or the quality of the milk supplied by the farmers and dealers.

The enforcement of the Food and Drugs Act in respect to soundness of meat and other foods is in the hands of the Police Authorities.

There is no regular system of meat Inspection throughout the District and no meat inspector has been appointed.

There is not any public abattoir in existence within the boundaries of the District.

The carcasses of two bullocks and one Pig were condemned and destroyed as unfit for human consumption.

Frequent visits were paid to the twenty eight slaughter houses of the District. All of these slaughter houses were found, upon inspection to be in good order, with the exception of two, which required white-washing. This fault was remedied in both cases on notice being served.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

The total number of Infectious Diseases notified throughout the whole District during the year 1919 amounts to 49.

Ten of these notifications were of Scarlet Fever in the following localities; Halberton 4. Silverton 3 and one each at Bradninch, Uffculme, and Samford Peverell.

Eight Scarlet Fever cases were removed to the Isolation Hospital.

Of the 15 cases of Diphtheria 12 notifications came from Uffculme 2 from Bradninch and 1 from Cullompton.

Two of these Diphtheria cases were removed to the Isolation Hospital, the others were of a very mild form and were treated at home with all due precautions to prevent any spread of the Disease. The Uffculme cases all occurred about the end of July or beginning of August.

The Puerperal Fever case at Cullompton which ended fatally was the only death resulting from any of the notifiable diseases.

There have not been any "return cases" of Scarlet fever during the year.

Influenza caused the deaths of seven males and five females.

Measles ceased to be a notifiable disease on the 31st December 1919.

The medical practitioners of the District have been given the right of submitting swabs, sputum and blood to the County Medical Officer of Health for diagnostic purposes. This privilege has been greatly appreciated by the medical men and full advantage has been taken of this privilege.

TUBERCULOSIS

During 1919 there were 33 notifications of Tuberculosis. Of these, 23 were pulmonary and 10 were of tuberculous disease affecting other parts of the body.

On receipt of a notification the case is visited, enquiries made, and instructions given to prevent infection. A leaflet of instructions and advice is left with the patient also a spittoon and disinfecting fluid provided by the authorities.

Once per week the notifications received are forwarded to the county medical officer.

After the notification of any case, the Tuberculosis Officer visits the patient and advises either Sanatorium Dispensary or Home treatment.

On removal or death of the person affected the premises are thoroughly disinfected by the Sanitary Inspector, as in other cases of Infectious Disease.

There is not any sanatorium within the District.

During the year 1919 Pulmonary Tuberculosis caused the deaths of seven males and seven females. Three males died from other tuberculous diseases.

As a general experience it has been found that patients suffering from Tuberculosis are anxious and ready to avail themselves of the facilities provided for the diagnosis and treatment of their disease.

There is no dispensary within the District.

SMALL-POX.

No primary vaccinations nor re-vaccinations have been made by me, as medical officer of Health under the Public Health (small pox prevention) Regulations 1917.

There have not been any cases of Anthrax or Rabies reported from the District during the year 1919.

MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE.

The Inspector of Midwives is appointed by the County Council.

On being notified of any case the Health Visitor, visits the mother after the birth of the child and gives her advice as to the necessary care and treatment of young children, and child-welfare in general. Grants of milk are made to expectant mothers when considered necessary.

There was only one case of Ophthalmia Neonatorum, in which instance both eyes fully recovered.

There was one fatal case of Puerperal Fever.

During the year 1919 eighty cases of measles and German Measles were reported from various parts of the District.

Most of the notifications came from the following localities viz: Stoodleigh Calverleigh, Uplowman, Huntsham Crwys Morchard Washfield and Hockworthy in which parishes the schools were closed for various periods, thereby checking the spread of the disease.

SANITARY ADMINISTRATION.

Only one officer has been appointed to take charge of the Sanitary Administration of the District This officer is the Sanitary Inspector and also Inspector of Nuisances.

The Tiverton Rural District in conjunction with the Borough of Tiverton has provided the Tiverton Isolation Hospital which is situated within the Borough of Tiverton and is carried on as a Joint Institution. This Hospital has up to the present time proved amply sufficient for the requirements of the community.

During the year eight cases of Scarlet Fever and two cases of Diphtheria were removed to this Hospital. All these cases made satisfactory recoveries.

HOUSING

In 1914, the total number of houses of all kinds in the District, was 3,496 and there has been very little change in this number during the last five years.

About 2800 of these dwelling places could be described as houses of the so called "Working Classes" No new houses have been built during the year, nor have any been in course of erection.

No important change occurred, in the population during the year, and none is anticipated in the near future.

The total population according to the figures supplied by the County Medical Officer of Health is :-

For Birth-rate	14,204
For Death-rate	13,635

To remedy the shortage of housing accommodation, it has been proposed to build the given number of cottages in the following parishes :

Bradninch	24 (altered to 12)		
Silverton	12	Butterleigh	2
Cullompton	36	Templeton	2
Willand	20	Crwys Morchard	8
Uffculme	44	Oakford	6
Sampford Peverell	25	Washfield	5
Halberton	35	Huntsham	2
Uplozman	8	Hockworthy	4
Kentisbeare	10	Clayhanger	2
Cadbury	2	Morebath	10
Cadeleigh	4	Loxbeare	6

Owing to the shortage of housing accommodation overcrowding has to a small extent existed within the District To remedy this state of affairs steps are being taken for the erection of new cottages throughout the various parishes of the District.

The general standard of housing conditions throughout the District may be described as "fair to Good"

The general character of the defects existing in unfit houses is more or less the result of Old age Lack of ventilation and Light and inferior sanitary accommodation. When these defects are found to exist, the owners are notified and the complaints are brought up before the Parish Council at the next monthly meeting.

The scarcity of labour and high cost of material make the remedying of these defects a very difficult matter at the present time.

Twenty one parishes of the District are entirely dependant for their water supply upon wells and springs and have to make their own arrangements for the disposal of house refuse.

There are not any unhealthy areas within the District.

The only existing By-laws in this District that are in force are the Building By-laws and Regulations made by the Rural District Council of Tiverton with respect to Dairies Cowsheds and Milkshops

There are no tenement houses in the District.

No action has been taken during 1919 under the Housing Acts or Public Health Acts.

No complaints were made by householders that their dwelling places were unfit for human habitation but five houses on inspection were considered to be in an unfit state for habitation.

Forty old houses were satisfactorily renovated without the issuing of closing orders.

There were no houses in which the repairs were carried out by Local Authorities and no houses were voluntarily closed by the owners.

The question of making closing orders for four houses, is at present under consideration.

No closing orders were made during the year.

No demolition orders were made.

No dwelling houses were voluntarily demolished.

No obstructive buildings were notified or demolished during the year.

The staff engaged in housing work consists of one officer whose duties consist in acting as House Inspector Advisory as to all plans and specifications of new buildings and also with regard to sites water supply and drainage under the new Housing Acts Advisory as to alterations repairs and any other matters pertaining to the carrying out of works under the various clauses of the above Act.

I have the honour to be, Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

JOHN R.R. POLLOCK.

Medical Officer of Health.
Tiverton Rural District.

SANITARY INSPECTOR'S ANNUAL REPORT - For the year ending
December 31st 1919.

TO
THE TIVERTON RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,

I beg to submit my Report for the past year.

As you are aware Sanitary Work in common with work generally
has been greatly hampered under existing adverse conditions.

The Medical Officer and myself have however done our
best to carry out our duties so far as circumstances
permitted.

HOUSING

In accordance with the Regulations of the Act I have
made a thorough inspection of a considerable number of
houses in various parts of the District and furnished
detailed reports to the Housing Committee as to the
condition of 41 houses found to be more or less defective.
The nature of the defects were as follows :

General Repairs necessary	35
Water Supplies unsatisfactory	2
Drainage Closets etc. do.	6
Insufficient Ventilation	12
Dampness	14
Whitewashing etc. required	30

Formal Notices of these defects were sent to the
respective owners by the Clerk to the Council asking them
to carry out the necessary work as advised by myself.

The bulk of these notices have been complied with and
work is still proceeding.

OVERCROWDING

A few cases have been noted and dealt with as far as possible There is however great difficulty owing to the lack of houses.

There are cottages in various parts of the District which have been allowed to become uninhabitable Prior to 1919 the rents being so low as to be quite insufficient to pay the cost of repairs Under the increased powers conferred by the New Housing Act we are endeavouring to deal with this matter

NEW DWELLINGS.

Plans for a number of new houses to be erected in various parts of the District, have been prepared and submitted by the Councils Architect.

These have been approved Several building sites have been acquired and your Housing Committees hope shortly to commence building operations.

BUILDING BY PRIVATE OWNERS.

Nine Plans have been submitted and approved during the year viz:

New Houses	3
Mission Hall	1
Additions & Alterations	5

SEWERAGE.

The sewers and outfall works in the district are fairly satisfactory.

At Uffculme a new section of six inch sewer has been constructed from Fore Street to Rents Court to replace an old sewer constructed with common pipes. There is also a new six inch sewer being laid from Ashley Road to Mill Street

HOUSE DRAINAGE etc.

Three fresh connections have been made with sewers Eight new drains have been constructed for slop water and soil also eight drains have been repaired

HOUSE REFUSE.

At Bradninch Cullompton, Silverton and Uffculme the removal is carried out by the Sanitary Authority. In the rest of the District it is disposed of by the cottagers on their gardens and allotments.

RIVERS POLLUTION.

At Cullompton and Uffculme the sewage is dealt with by broad irrigation and an occasional pollution takes place through an overflow into ditches which communicate with the River Culm.

Steps are being taken to prevent this.

At Sangsford Peverell a small irrigation stream was polluted by the discharge of "Whey" from the Dairy Factory. This has now been remedied by the construction of Precipitating Tank and Filters.

Lime is used as a precipitant.

A similar pollution of the same stream is caused by the discharge from the Dairy Factory at Tiverton Junction. This is under consideration but has not yet been dealt with.

At Cullompton : a Gloving Tannery has been built near the Railway Station. The Trade Refuse is effectively dealt with by Septic Tanks and Filters.

WATER SUPPLY.

Bradninch Silverton and Morebath have Public Supplies. The quality of the water is good but the quantity is somewhat limited for a short time in summer. Steps are being taken to increase the supply at Bradninch by opening up fresh springs

In connection with the new Housing Scheme it would be desirable to provide public water supplies at Cullompton, Halberton Uffculme and Willand.

In each of these places a supply of good water may be easily obtained.

During the year I have taken eight samples of water from private wells for analysis two of which were found unfit for drinking purposes. The source of contamination has been removed and the water is now all right.

Two new wells have been sunk and four cleaned out.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

In all cases the premises, bedding, clothing etc. has been thoroughly disinfected. In a case of Puerperal Fever the whole of the bedding and clothing was burnt.

SCHOOLS.

The schools throughout the District are well looked after they are kept clean and sanitary arrangements are satisfactory.

I disinfected Uffculme School after an outbreak of Scarlet Fever.

BAKEHOUSES.

There are thirty two none of which are underground. Frequent inspections have been made and I find they are generally kept in good condition.

Three Verbal notices to whitewash have been complied with

SLAUGHTER HOUSES

These number twenty eight and are usually kept in fair condition, Two verbal notices to whitewash and two notices to remove offal were complied with.

Diseased Animals. Two tuberculous bullocks and one pig suffering from nettlerush were surrendered and destroyed.

DAIRIES AND MILK SHOPS

Eighty are registered. Frequent inspections have been made and as a rule I find no cause for complaint. Two notices to whitewash dairy were complied with.

FACTORIES AND WORKSHOPS

These are all kept clean and in good condition Ventilation and Sanitary arrangements are satisfactory

There is no overcrowding

Fire Exits are provided as required by the Act.

Outworkers: None are employed at present

COMMON LODGING HOUSES

There are none in the district.

OFFENSIVE TRADES

None in the district.

SCAVENGING.

This throughout the district has been carried out in a satisfactory manner.

I have the honour to remain Gentlemen,

Yours obediently

ROBERT ELLIS M.I.Min.E. M.I.S.A.

Sanitary Inspector.

